GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6989
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2000
DROUGHT IN COUNTRY
GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAV

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts and population affected by serious drought in the country, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government to provide assistance to them; and

(c) the reasons for not providing the basic needs even after fifty years of independence?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(A. RAJA)

(a), (b) & (c) Gujarat, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have reported severe drought conditions. The number of districts and population affected are:-

Gujarat - 17 districts covering a population of approximately 215 lakh
Rajasthan - 26 districts covering a population of approximately 262 lakh
Andhra Pradesh - 18 districts covering a population of approximately 415 lakh

Assistance provided to the affected states is:-

(i) Under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) :

(Rs. in crore)

STATE	1999-2000		2000-2001
	CRF	NFCR	CRF
Gujarat	121.05	54.58	131.14
Rajasthan	155.25	102.93	112.12
Andhra Pradesh	107.69	75.36	77.78

(ii) Special allocation of foodgrains for drought relief :

The Government have decided to supply foodgrains at BPL rates to all families (Below Poverty Line and Above Poverty Line) in drought affected areas at the rate of 20 kg. per family per month for three months. Further, foodgrains are also to be provided at BPL rates under the Food for Works Programme and to NGOs/local bodies for running free community kitchens in drought affected areas. The total quantity of foodgrains allocated under these categories is as follows.

(Quantity allotted in tonnes)

State	Rice	Wheat

Gujarat	1,47,682	2,71,523
Rajasthan	22,573	5,03,889
Andhra Pradesh	1,00,000	-

The net consumer subsidy involved in the above foodgrain allocation is as under:

(Rs.in crore)

State	Rice	Wheat	Total
Gujarat	81.91	86.87	168.78
Rajasthan	12.42	176.89	189.31
Andhra Pradesh	59.00		59.00
TOTAL	153.33	263.76	417.09

(iii) In addition to the above direct assistance to the drought-affected areas, the Ministry of Rural Development have released a total amount of Rs.425.71 crore as Central share under its various poverty alleviation and area development programmes. The State-wise details are as under:

(Rs.in crore)

State	Funds Released
Gujarat	128.09
Rajasthan	112.93
Andhra Pradesh	184.69
TOTAL	425.71